

# Best Ideas

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During the 2012 Leon County Sustainable Communities Summit, attendees were asked to write their “Best Ideas” for a more sustainable community in regard to five target areas: water, energy, food, transportation, and waste. The following report consists of the responses contributed from the participants. It is an unedited report of all the ideas that were received from attendees and is not a statement of Leon County policy. The information and ideas in this document are solely those of the community.

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## WATER

### SUMMARY

- Current Issues with City Water Supply
  - Chlorine
  - Fluoride (opt out)
- Infrastructure support for water resources
  - Rebate for cisterns
  - Free irrigation meters
  - Rain barrels
  - Smart Irrigation clock
- Policy Education Outreach
  - No extension of sewer
  - Improve septic systems
  - Promote reduction of impervious surfaces
  - Water ordinance- create an unmowed buffer around water bodies.
  - Extend social and economic outreach on marine issues.

### BEST IDEAS IN DETAIL

#### Current issues with city water sources

- Remove fluoride out of water supply. It cost money to put it in let it be a choice (no control in dosing).
- Chlorine from water causes cancer\*. Install water purifier to have better water. What if water purifiers were built in buildings of apartments, housing, school & public buildings?

#### Infrastructure support for water resources

- Rebate for rooftop rainwater collection and cistern systems (non filtered for outside and fully filtered for inside and cooking use).
- Free irrigation meters for all community gardens.
- Subsidized water cisterns
- Use re-claimed water for all landscape irrigation
  - Use smart irrigation clocks. Uses environmental data such as temperature, wind speed, humidity, plant requirements, to irrigate landscapes, replacing, only, what was lost enough evaporation.

### **Policy & Education Outreach**

- Don't extend sewer into the county.
  1. To reduce negative effects of urban sprawl and endanger water quality\* (2 people).
  2. It would cause population density and more negative impacts on Wakulla Springs on the watershed and the Floridian Aquifer.
  3. Instead upgrade the septic systems.
- Promote the reduction of impervious surfaces to improve water quality.
  - Focus restoration on floodplains and reducing the amount of impervious surfaces within each watershed.
- Leon County Should further environmental economic social outreach to coastal, ocean, and marine issues
- Incorporate rainwater collection into building codes.
- Water ordinance making an unmowed buffer mandatory around all bodies of water.
- Education on how personal behavior can contaminate water supply.
  - Litter
  - Bottles
  - Cans
  - Cigarette butts

## **ENERGY**

### **Political**

- Incentives for LEED Certification/ Waive city fees for LEED Certified buildings
- Rewards for energy efficient small and medium sized businesses
- Low cost loans for solar devices and other home improvements (in progress)
- Tax breaks on homestead for solar installation
- Adopt feed-in tariff for PV electricity
- Increase rebates for solar appliances
- Streamline building permitting process to three weeks
- Community based-solar (sell locally produced solar energy back to provider)
- No nuclear energy
- Require public housing to meet heating and air standards
- Government should pay homeowners to rent space on their homes for solar panels
- Localize energy production
- Public facilities should turn off lights at night in Tallahassee (currently there are more than necessary for security purposes).

### **Conservation**

- Educate low-income families on energy conservation and consumption
- Automatic processes – save energy without thought or action
- Location of building for lighting and energy use
- Does the smart grid pay for itself? Have we measured it?

### **Alternative Energy**

- Solar powered streetlights
- Solar powered irrigation systems
- Can we store solar for more than a day

- Make all public buildings install solar (especially parking garages)
- All buildings must be equipped with solar

## FOOD

My Home	My Community	Our Network	Education	Top Ideas
Encourage HOA to allow home gardening	Provide means of access for community to cultivate self-sufficient practices	Crowd Sourcing local farms & Producers	Urban Farms serving as resources for education & self-sufficiency	Seed Catalogue for community
Plant edible Landscaping (backyard farm)	Ensure cultivation practices reaches all of community (children to elderly, to the disabled) (i.e. school lunches, gardening programs, parents, community center classes)	Diversified barter (loans with food)	Seed Saving	Reduce cost of menu items for those who bring in reusable eating utensils.
Private home self-sufficiency & Independence through home gardening	Inclusive/accessible urban gardens for elderly & persons with disabilities	Seed Bank Network	School Gardens & Ntwork	Local Grown Food Map  And  Food Desert Map
	Cross-generational family summit on food	Partnering with City for compost transport		Accessible Gardening for persons with disabilities (urban garden employment)

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Land Use**

- No more large houses on large lots many miles out of town and not close to work or shopping. Makes changes in land use that support walking and affordable/economical transportation.
- Build affordable housing DOWNTOWN. Best way to reduce trips and make bike commuting and mass transit feasible and efficient.
- Tactical Urbanism: enable local solutions to local problems. Empower community groups to make their neighborhoods more pedestrian/bike friendly. Let people work together to change the built environment to facilitate community interaction.

### **Bicycles**

- Bike infrastructure
  - o Bike only roads like in Amsterdam/Denmark. Make it easier to travel via bike between states and cities
  - o Bike lanes, not palm trees on Gaines street
  - o Bicycle parking everywhere
  - o Street or pathway for bicycle use only for safe passage to/from FSU, city, or work
  - o Protect bike lanes from automobiles
  - o More separated bike lanes
  - o More bike storage
  - o Create more infrastructure in city/county development
- Encourage bike use
  - o Community bike borrowing program like the Yellow bike program
  - o Rent-a-bikes in cascades park
  - o Promote bicycles as a viable source of transportation
  - o Add more bike racks to buses/allow bikes to be carried on buses. 2 bikes/bus is not enough
  - o Citywide bike fest in the streets. Block off traffic to area.
  - o Market bicycle challenge competition of: communities; companies; teams and individuals. [www.nationalbikechallenge.com](http://www.nationalbikechallenge.com)

### **No Idling**

- More flashing red lights for late-night traffic to prevent idling
- Add citation/teeth to "Idle Free": wonderful program already in place. Encourage drivers to shut off their cars while parked or stopped. This saves gas, decreases air pollution, and cuts down global warming.
- Replace all stop signs (not required by public laws) with yield signs. This would eliminate unnecessary and inefficient 'Stop-Starts', which would make travel more efficient.

### **Public Transit**

- Hydrogen powered buses
- Electric powered

- All-electric Proterra busses
  - Bring back the Tally-Town Trolley for downtown and other areas
  - Electric trolleys
  - Smaller, electric
- Promote Mass Transit
  - Promote the CRTPA's goal to expand public transportation. Promote the use of public transportation
  - Support the aging road user coalition
  - Smaller buses and extend routes to rural areas
  - More and better buses
  - Electronic signs or twitter that inform riders when the next bus is approaching.
  - Buses to the airport and around capital circle.
  - Better network

## **Other**

- Solar powered traffic lights
- Website where you can purchase from local stores with local delivery services using CNG and electric vehicles, order from home and get delivery faster than from Amazon.

## **WASTE**

### **Improving: Access to Recycling Opportunities**

- In Tallahassee and Leon County a recycle container every where a public trash can is placed.
- Have recycling containers available in other parts of Leon County when the dump is closed (Mon-Wed)
- Increase hours at Woodville landfill instead of decreasing it. People are littering due to a reduction hours.

### **Ordinances**

- Ban Styrofoam, plastic bottles and bags
  - Convince firms, organizations, and citizens to use reusable containers.
- Ensure there are resources available to employ and maintain the tenure of individuals who are knowledgeable and passionate about sustainable practices (i.e. recycling).
- Reduce Sprawl
- No sewer line to Woodville
- Promote Individual septic inspections and pumping instead of county program.
- Tax plastic bags
- Leon County should deliver their compost to community garden projects for free.

### **Marketing: Encourages large businesses to participate in Waste reduction through market pressure.**

- More communal drop off for recycling paper bags and boxes
- Recycle bagged up plastic bags and foam trays and egg cartons at the curb for city pick up
- Required that universities' and college's offices recycle paper.
- Encourage food service providers that provide large amounts of food to consider installing a pulper-dehydrator in their facility. The system pulps, dries, and adds material to soil.
- Encourage more apartment communities to recycle
- Seek out businesses that recycle exclusively
- Use gold standard for businesses to reduce the price of drinks and meals if people bring in their own containers.
- Purchase goods made of recycled materials to boost markets and create demand
- Do business locally
- Use recycled building materials and revitalize old buildings.
- Provide market incentive for reused materials and encourage nurseries to reuse boxes and materials.

### **Create New Technologies for converting waste**

- Convert methane gas to use as energy.

### **Composting Yard and Food Waste from Neighborhoods Businesses and Schools**

- City pickup of yard and food waste with drop-off points at community gardens.
- Support and facilitate restaurant and grocery stores to give compost materials to compost facilities
- Compost food and coffee waste at schools, county, city, and state cafeterias.
- Encourage city and county to implement waste policy.
- City county workshops on worm composting to promote the practice
- Composting waste containers around the city for easier access.
- Neighborhood yard waste recycling areas throughout the city
- Businesses having contracts with companies that collect food waste which is then composted
- Have schools compost lunch waste
- Curbside grinding of yard waste rather than taking to a landfill
- City to bring compost to community gardens

#### **Education & Public**

- Marketing materials to be used in households promoting education regarding waste options
- Create more marketing on ways to educate about reducing waste
- Teach younger generation on how to live sustainably. Adults lead by example.

#### **Rewarding homes & businesses for Conserving and Penalizing Homes and Businesses for Waste Production**

- Use cloth diapers to reduce waste
- Increase the number of households recycling through local neighborhood association competitions. Incentives could be rewarded for the neighborhood that recycles the most.
- Give energy credits for energy conservation
- Higher fees for municipal waste
- Charge by the pound for non-recyclable materials.